

FDD-PST

From: Lou Bennett [lbennett@crisp.k12.ga.us]
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2000 3:40 PM
To: fdd-pst@fns.usda.gov
Cc: efreeman@doe.k12.ga.us
Subject: Fw: Response to USDA's Business Process Re-engineering

----- Original Message -----

From: Lou Bennett
To: fdd-pst@fns.usda.gov
Cc: efreeman@doe.k12.ga.us
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2000 2:57 PM
Subject: Response to USDA's Business Process Re-engineering

I do not think that allowing vendors to use commercial labels on USDA products is a good idea. One of the biggest problems managers have is keeping accurate production records and inventory. If we happen to purchase the same brand item as that supplied by USDA, record keeping would be extremely difficult. Maybe some school kitchens have separate stockrooms for USDA and purchased items, but the majority of schools do not have that luxury. Managers depend upon workers to tell them whether they use USDA or purchased foods when preparing items for service. Sometimes they get mixed up and report the wrong source for the food. It would be very difficult to get the items straight if their labels looked alike. You would definitely need to delete the requirement for keeping production record and inventories separate if you provide USDA products with commercial labeling.

I don't think that 'generic' labels infer poor quality. We purchase many Code and Frosty Acre products which are generic for our vendors and are of good quality. What DOES need to be included on labels is the USDA item number (e.g. A436), packing date, and lot number of products. This is information that we are required to track for inventory purposes and in case of problems with a food item. THAT is what needs to be on USDA product labels, not DelMonte, Hunt's or other brand names.

Do commercial buyers always purchase domestic products? If not, couldn't we be receiving foreign products with money intended for purchasing domestic foods?

Do foreign products meet the same standards for quality, pesticide use, etc. that US products must meet? If not, we may be getting inferior products for our money. Please consider this.

I would like it very much if you would develop written procedures for hold and recall. This would save us time.

Our state office contacts all of us by e-mail now. This has been a good method of communicating quickly. I depend on them often for information on USDA products and assistance with transferring items between districts, etc. They are a great resource.

I would like to receive your summary of responses to these proposals. Please send to Lou Bennett, Crisp County School Nutrition Program, P. O. Box 729, Cordele, GA 31010-0729 or e-mail to lbennett@crisp.k12.ga.us